

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 23, 2011**

## **SCREENING COMMITTEE REVIEWS CANDIDATES FOR JUDGE GRAWLEY VACANCY IN TENTH CIRCUIT**

Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas L. Kilbride announced the names of a special screening committee who were appointed to review the credentials of the seven candidates who applied to fill a judicial vacancy in the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit.

The Peoria resident circuit court vacancy was created by the 2010 retirement of Judge Richard Grawley and is temporarily being filled by Judge Glenn Collier who left retirement to fill the position.

Under the Illinois Constitution, the Supreme Court holds the authority to fill judicial vacancies. Chief Justice Kilbride uses an extensive application, evaluation and interview process to make recommendations to the Supreme Court for judicial vacancies in the Third Judicial District.

Chief Justice Kilbride named 17 persons to the special screening committee. The community representatives are: Dr. Rita Ali, executive director of diversity, Illinois Central College, East Peoria; Jonathan D. Burkland, president, Burkland Distributors, Inc., East Peoria; Tamara Butler, school social worker, Peoria Public Schools; Dr. Kimberly Johnston, president, Methodist College of Nursing; Andrea Pendleton, administrative assistant, Richwoods Township; Deb Rochford, office manager and paralegal, Rochford & Associates, Peoria; John Stenson, retired superintendent of police, City of Peoria; Stanley Valentine, retired, UAW Local 974, East Peoria; and Maria Vertuno, director, Bradley University Pre-Law Center, Peoria.

Judges and lawyers on the screening committee are: Retired Justice Tobias G. Barry of the Third District Appellate Court; Chief Judge Michael E. Brandt of the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit; Timothy Bertschy, attorney, former president of the Illinois State Bar Association and a partner at Heyl, Royster, Volker & Allen, Peoria; Timothy J. Howard, attorney and partner, Howard & Howard, Peoria; Don Jackson, attorney and sole practitioner, Peoria; Elizabeth Jensen, attorney and partner, Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick & Kohn LLP, Peoria; John P. Nicoara, attorney and partner, Nicoara & Steagall, Peoria; and Laura Petersen, attorney and partner, Quinn, Johnston, Henderson, Pretorius & Cerulo, Peoria.

Justice Barry and Mr. Bertschy, co-chairs of the committee, have served on previous screening committees appointed by Chief Justice Kilbride, and provide procedural continuity to the screening process.

**MORE**

**Chief Justice Kilbride Announced Screening Committee  
Add One**

Chief Justice Kilbride has publicly asked for and taken applications for Judge Grawey's vacancy, and seven persons have applied. They are: David B. Collins, David M. House, Kevin W. Lyons, Christopher S. McCall, Theresa B. Murphy, Leann M. Niebuhr, and Scott E. Umland.

Chief Justice Kilbride has sought written comments about the candidates from the community as part of the evaluation process. The evaluation process will also include background checks by police authorities and with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission. A survey of all attorneys residing in the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit was conducted by the Illinois State Bar Association. The attorneys were asked their opinions of the applicants' integrity, temperament, legal ability, management skills and other professional qualifications.

A recommendation to the Supreme Court by Chief Justice Kilbride is expected to be made soon.

The person appointed to fill the vacancy will serve until December 3, 2012, when the position will be filled by the 2012 General Election.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit is comprised of Marshall, Peoria, Putnam, Stark and Tazewell counties.

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**(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Joseph Tybor, press secretary to the Illinois  
Supreme Court, at 312.793.2323)**